

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1-20 without prejudice and substitute therefor Claims 21-48:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (new) A functional oral preparation comprising at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of water-soluble sericin, its hydrolyzed product and mixtures thereof, in an effective amount to prevent colon cancer.

22. (new) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount resistant to digestion by digestive enzymes, to control body weight, to prevent and treat constipation, and accelerate intestinal absorption of calcium and other ingested minerals.

23.(new) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount for uniting ingested minerals to thereby accelerate intestinal absorption of the same.

24.(new) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount for inhibiting occurrence of precancerous lesions in the colon.

25.(new) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount to activate digestive functions of stomach and intestines while inhibiting gastric and intestinal absorption of excess water, cholesterol and fat, and accelerate intestinal absorption of minerals such as calcium, iron, magnesium and zinc.

26.(new) The preparation of claim 21, in the form of a low-digestible food/drink additive.

27.(new) The preparation of claim 21, in the form of a health supplement.

28. (new) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in a molecular weight range between 20,000 and 100,000.

29.(new) The preparation of claim 28, wherein said at least one ingredient is additionally present in an effective amount to provide a daily dosage of 1 mg. to 1 g. per kg. body weight.

30. (new) The preparation of claim 21, wherein the sericin is naturally derived from silkworm cocoons or raw silk.

31. (new) A functional oral preparation comprising at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of water-soluble sericin, its hydrolyzed product and mixtures thereof and a mineral mix.

32. (new) The preparation of claim 31, wherein said mineral mix includes calcium, iron, magnesium, zinc, manganese, copper, chromium, selenium, molybdenum, cobalt, nickel, arsenic, iodine, boron, bromine, fluorine, lead, lithium, silicon, vanadium and cadmium.

33.(new) The preparation of claim 31, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in a molecular weight range between 20,000 and 100,000.

34.(new) The preparation of claim 33, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in an effective amount to provide a daily dosage of 1 mg. to 1 g. per kg. body weight.

35. (new) The preparation of claim 31, additionally comprising casein, L-cystine, corn oil, vitamin mix, choline tartrate, cellulose, saccharose and corn starch.

36. (new) The preparation of claim 31, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in an effective amount to prevent colon cancer including inhibiting occurrence of precancerous lesions in the colon, be resistant to digestion by digestive enzymes, control body weight including inhibiting intestinal absorption of excess water, cholesterol and fat, prevent and treat constipation, and accelerate intestinal absorption of calcium and other minerals including uniting the ingested minerals to increase the intestinal absorption.

37.(new) The preparation of claim 31, wherein said sericin is naturally derived from silkworm cocoons or raw silk.

38.(new) The preparation of claim 31, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in an effective amount to be resistant to digestion by pepsin and pancreatin as opposed to casein, increase fecal weight as opposed to casein, alleviate constipation as opposed to casein, control body weight and reduce fat accumulation as opposed to casein, increase absorption of calcium, magnesium, iron, and zinc as opposed to casein, inhibit precancerous lesions of the colon as opposed to casein, and reduce colon tumor incidence and count as opposed to casein.

39.(new) The preparation of claim 21, wherein said at least one ingredient is present in an effective amount to be resistant to digestion by pepsin and pancreatin as opposed to casein, increase fecal weight as opposed to casein, alleviate constipation as opposed to casein, control body weight and reduce fat accumulation as opposed to casein, increase absorption of calcium, magnesium, iron, and zinc as opposed to casein, inhibit precancerous lesions of the colon as opposed to casein, and reduce colon tumor incidence and count as opposed to casein.

40.(new) A method for preventing colon cancer which comprises orally administering an effective amount of a water-soluble sericin or its hydrolyzed product to a mammal.

41. (new) The method of claim 40, comprising the step of administering said sericin or its hydrolyzed product at a daily dosage of 1 mg. to 1 g. per kg. of body weight.

42. (new) The method of claim 40, comprising the step of administering said sericin or its hydrolyzed product having a molecular weight of 20,000 to 100,000.

43.(new) The method of claim 40, comprising the step of administering said sericin or its hydrolyzed product in an effective amount resistant to digestion by digestive enzymes, to control body weight and fat absorption, prevent and treat constipation, accelerate intestinal absorption of calcium and other ingested minerals including uniting the ingested minerals, and inhibit occurrence of precancerous lesions in the colon.

44.(new) The method of claim 40, comprising the additional step of adding said sericin or hydrolyzed product thereof to a food or drink or providing the sericin or hydrolyzed product thereof in the form of a health supplement.

45.(new) The method of claim 40, comprising the additional step of naturally deriving said sericin from silkworm cocoons or raw silk.

46.(new) The method of claim 40, comprising the additional step of mixing minerals comprising at least calcium, iron, magnesium, zinc, manganese, copper, chromium, selenium, molybdenum, cobalt, nickel, arsenic, iodine, boron, bromine, fluorine, lead, lithium, silicon, vanadium and cadmium.

47.(new) The method of claim 46, comprising the additional step of adding casein, L-cystine, corn oil, vitamin mix, choline tartrate, cellulose, saccharose and corn starch.

48. (new) The preparation of claim 40, comprising the additional step of adding said at least one ingredient in an effective amount to be resistant to digestion by pepsin and pancreatin as opposed to casein, increase fecal weight as opposed to casein, alleviate constipation as opposed to casein, control body weight and reduce fat accumulation as opposed to casein, increase absorption of calcium, magnesium, iron, and zinc as opposed to casein, inhibiting precancerous lesions of the colon as opposed to casein, and reduce colon tumor incidence and count as opposed to casein.